

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the current Office Action and rewrites the allowable claims as independent claims, with all the remaining claims either canceled or amended to depend from an allowable claim, as appropriate.

In paragraphs 9 to 17 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 13-14, 16-20, 26-35 and 44 to 47 would be allowable if rewritten independently to include the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claim.

In the foregoing amendment, claims 13, 18, 26 and 44 have been rewritten as independent claims including the subject matter of the base claim and intervening claims. The rejected claims have been either canceled or amended to depend from one of the allowable independent claims, as appropriate. Thus, claims 1 to 9, 11 and 12 have been canceled while claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 13. Claims 10 and 13 should therefore now be allowable, along with claims 14, 16 and 17 which depend from claim 13. Claim 15 has been canceled. Amended independent claim 18 should also now be allowable, along with claims 19 and 20 which depend from claim 18.

Claims 21 to 25 have been canceled and amended independent claim 26 should now be allowable, along with claims 27 to 35 which depend from this claim. Claims 36 to 43 have been canceled and amended independent claim 44 should now be allowable, along with claims 45 to 47 and new claim 48 which depend from claim 44.



It is submitted that this application should now be in condition in all respects for allowance, and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any outstanding objections or rejections which could be dealt with by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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